Action against bank defaulters

3305. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he has asked banks to come down heavily on wilful defaulters and take steps to reduce non-performing assets of the banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the strategy adopted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The banks take all possible steps to recover their dues from defaulters through various means such as close follow up, filing of suits etc. Also Government of India/Reserve Bank of India/Banks have taken several steps for recovery of bank dues which include framing and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with Civil Courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), strengthening and setting up more DRTs and DRATs, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of non performing accounts.

DA to Central Government Employees/Pensioners

3306. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dearness Allowance/Relief to Central Government Employees/retired persons has become due w.e.f. 1.1.2000;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of increase being given to the Employees/ retired Government employees; and

(c) by when the instalment of Dearness Allowance/Relief to retired persons will be announced by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Orders for sanction of additional instalment of Dearness Allowance for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief for retired Central Government employees w.e.f. 1.1.2000 have since been issued. The DA/DR has been increased from 37% to 38% of basic pay/ pension w.e.f. 1.1.2000.

ECB approval norms

3307. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made the norms for ECB approvals easy and fast;

(b) if so, the highlights thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what is the total disbursement of ECB loans in the just ended financial year 1999-2000 along with the break-up of various sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Government has been streamlining/simplifying External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) procedures in order to enable Indian corporates, to have easier access to international financial markets. Accordingly, among other changes, end-use restrictions have been relaxed and RBI has been empowered to give approval for loan amounts upto USD 10 million under various ECB schemes. The latest simplification of ECB policies has been effected vide this Department's Press Release dated 9.2.2000.

(d) As per available estimates, the details of sector-wise disbursements of ECB loans from 1st April, 1999 to 31st December, 1999 are as follows:—

(in Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Sector	Disbursement
1.	Public Corporations	1835.94
2.	Private Corporations	4860.28
3.	Financial institutions	545.66
	TOTAL	**7241.88**